

Tribune articles
on C. Sumner,
W. Phillips,
&c



Rev. Samuel May, Jr.,
Leicester,
Mass.

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Anti-Slavery Office,
New York, 18 Aug., 1850.

Dear May,

I suppose the enclosed letter is yours, but am not certain. If it is not, you will know to whom it belongs.

I, too, have heard that Gay wrote the articles in the Tribune about Phillips and Hyatt, but I do not know whether the report is true or false. I am afraid, however, that the story is true.

Gay is not a large-minded man, nor so deeply rooted in the faith as to be proof against adverse influences constantly and powerfully

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operating. While he was in this office, he sometimes annoyed me by what I deemed a certain narrowness of judgment in regard to the Tribune - a disposition to fight it on petty issues, and to assume the existence of bad motives upon inadequate proof. My former connection with the paper having brought me in close contact with Greeley, I felt that I understood him and those around him better than Gay did. Since Gay went into the Tribune I have observed a great change in the tone of his speech. He is more Tribunish, than he is aware - more so, I am sure, than I ever was during my

connection with the paper. His narrowness has changed sides, being now, ^{at least to some extent,} unconsciously, exercised [^] toward his old associates. Such is human nature. I ~~am~~ ^{grow} more and more astonished every day at the comparatively small number of persons who can keep their balance against adverse winds.

I am sure that Gay did not write the disparaging notice of Sumner, but that, on the contrary, it was his influence that secured the publication of his speech in the immense Weekly & Semi-weekly papers.

I have answered your inquiries, but I must enjoin you not to report anything about the

matter on my authority, or in con-
nection with my name. The rea-
sons for this you will appreciate;

I hope you are getting longer
by rest. I do so long for a few
weeks release, but alas! there's
nobody to turn the crank when
I'm away.

What a nice time the young
people had at Abington, in spite
of the absence of you old timers.
Well, there's comfort in thinking
that the cause is not wholly de-
pendent on any body, but will
live, whatever may become of any
of us.

Yours, faithfully,
Oliver Johnson